Department of Agriculture
and Fisheries for Scotland

A Glossary of Scottish Dialect Fish and Trade Names

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2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

Scottish Fisheries
Information Pamphlet
Number 17 1989
ISSN 0309 9105

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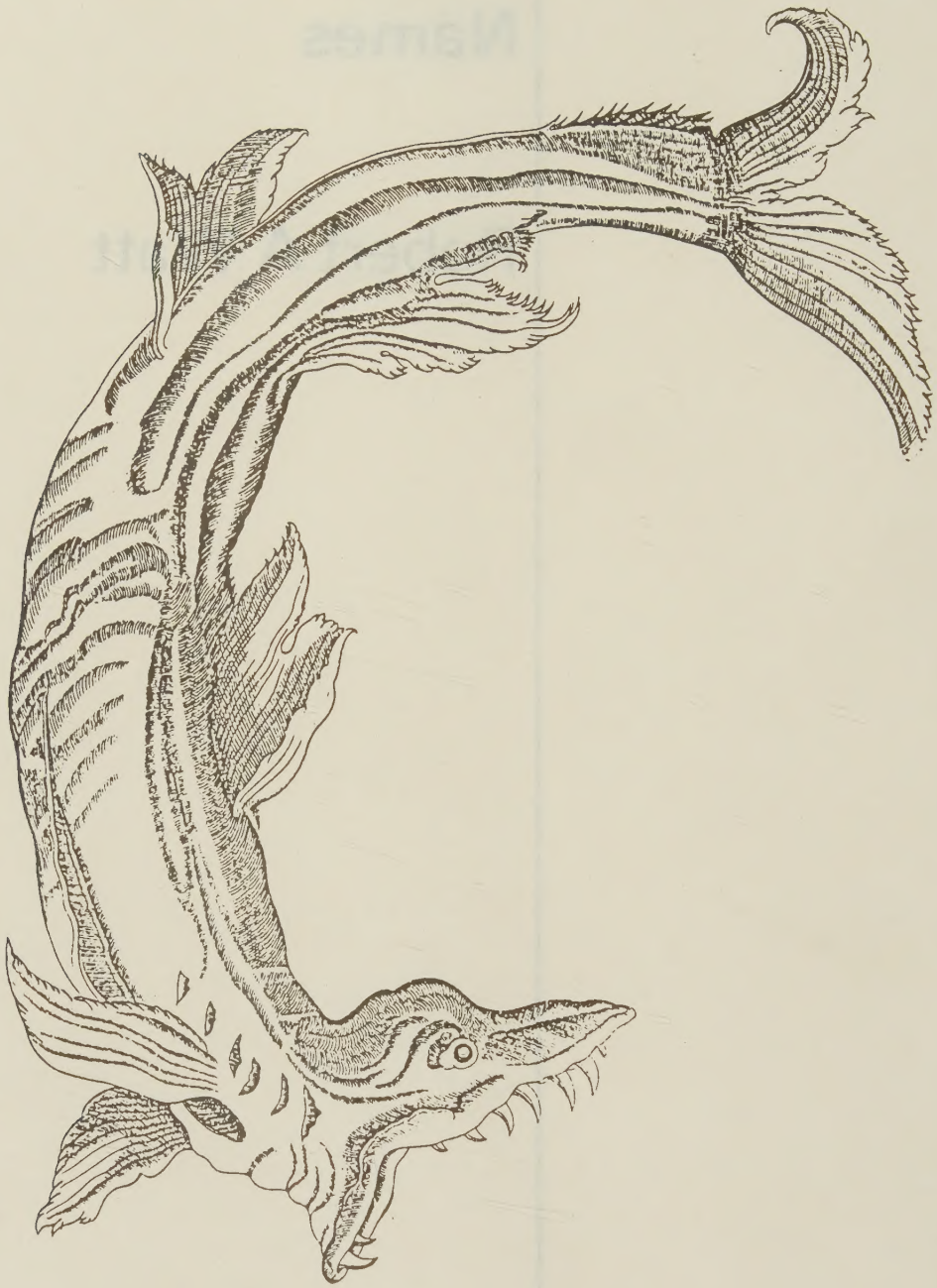
The illustrations in this pamphlet are taken from a treatise by Francis Willughby (1635–1672), "De Historia Piscium ....", dedicated to Samuel Pepys.



A Glossary of Scottish Dialect Fish and Trade Names

Robert A Watt

Marine Laboratory Aberdeen

Introduction

Scottish dialect and colloquial names for fish are many and varied, and this glossary is an attempt to give some of these terms for most of the commercial species landed at Scottish ports.

In Part 1 of the glossary the fish are introduced by family, in alphabetical order. The families are further divided alphabetically into separate species, under the commonly accepted English names along with the Linnaean classification. Part 2 is simply a cross reference of all the information given in part one. Some dialect and colloquial expressions used in the trade at sea and ashore may be found in Part 3.

Unlike modern English, dialect can be extremely exact, and where appropriate, definitions of these terms are given. It is now very difficult to assign a geographic origin to many of the older names, but wherever possible an indication of the general area in which they were, and still are, used is given.

Although it is not the purpose of this glossary to investigate the derivation of our dialect names, it should quickly become obvious that while some of them are purely descriptive and others are, quite naturally, of Gaelic origin, most of the rest must mystify even the experienced etymologist.

A study of fish provides as much scope for the social anthropologist and the archaeologist as it does for the biologist. The "salmon" is one of the nine animal symbols to be found on Pictish carved stones. However, in some areas with estuaries close by, these "salmon" may have been "sturgeon", since the Acipenseridae were probably then far more common than they are today.

In "The Yellow Book of Lecan" the Irish bard Amergin speaks of himself as "... a wild bull ... a wild boar, a salmon ...", all of them cult creatures of the ancient Celts. Throughout their history the Celts were always reluctant to utter the true names of their Gods, in case their enemies might use the power of these deities against them.

In Scotland the salmon has now come to be regarded as an unlucky fish, and any mention of its name aboard some of our fishing vessels is taboo. However, in view of what we know of the Celtic attitude towards their Gods I suggest that it is the act of uttering the name which is unlucky, and not the fish itself. A glance through the dialect names for salmon given in the glossary would seem to indicate that the folk memory of Finn mac Cumhail's great Salmon of Wisdom may still be with us, in that it is still safer to call the deity the Red Fish or the Queer Fella rather than its true name.

Until the advent of more seaworthy boats, built to accommodate larger catches, fishing in Scotland was confined to inshore and estuarine waters. In 1505 Hector Boece, formerly a lecturer in philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris, was appointed the first Principal of King's College in Aberdeen. Some years later in his "History of Scotland" he wrote of the future potential

of a Scottish fishery, "... of al othir Kinds of fische is sa grete plente throw all partis of our seis, that, howbeit infinit noumer of thaim were tane away on the ta day, na thing theirof sal be mist on the morrow. Attoure ane thing is, that comis not but singulare providence of God: for ay the mair dirth and penurite of vittalis is in Scotland, the fische swoumis with the more abundance and plente ...".

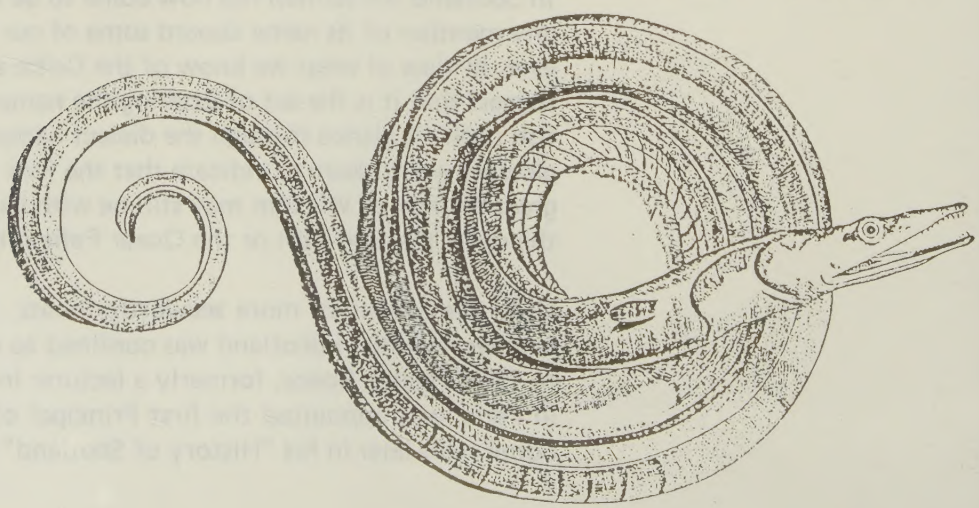
Towards the end of the 16th century Robert Johnstoune was given permission to erect "ane skaymlis of tre" at the Fish Cross in Aberdeen. Prior to this, fish had been exhibited for sale laid out on the causeway, or packed in baskets, about the Fish Cross. Johnstoune's "skaymlis" probably consisted of a wooden platform with an awning over it, a sort of stall, and was the first real provision for the hygienic sale of fish in Aberdeen. His was the only market allowed in the town – he charged a penny for every creel of fish brought to the stall, and for a horseload twopence. The Council demanded 40 shillings a year from Johnstoune for this privilege.

Even today many sea anglers are first introduced to the sport by catching small saithe, or poddlies, off our quays. On 14 April 1592 the Town Council of Aberdeen considered a complaint against the destruction of a newly devised net for catching "lapsteris", "partanis" and "paddillis" set at the "Grey Hoip" within the "Girdlenes". The defendants were found guilty of the charge since, in the Council's opinion, the new net was "... ane necessar ingyne and profitabill for the common weill ..." I am happy to report that almost 500 years later "paddillis", or poddlies, may still be caught in the same area.

A reference to the dialect saithe may also be found in Neil Munro's rollicking tales of "Parahandy". In "A Stroke of Luck", Dougie, the Mate of the "Vital Spark", sells a "stenlock" to a Glasgow housewife as a cod. The good lady, "... biled it three oors ... and it was (of course) like leather when a' was done ...". "Para" eventually finds an excuse for Dougie's con-trick in the poor quality of "Cameron's coals" which "... wouldna boil a wulk, let alone a fine cod ...".

Finally, I should stress that my choice of fish names and their dialect equivalents is personal. The spelling is purely phonetic, and the origins of the various names are, as far as is possible, within my own experience of their usage.

I gratefully acknowledge the impetus that Professor A.D. Hawkins has provided for the collation of all the material which I have haphazardly collected over the last 30 years, Godfrey Howard's advice on all the shellfish species, and Harry Dunn's comments on the completed version of this glossary.



PART 1
Scottish Dialect Names for Fish, Grouped by Families in Alphabetical Order

AGNATHA

Lamprey: *Petromyzon marinus* (L.)

Lamper eel		Abd, sw Scot
Nine-e'ed eel or niner		Scot
Ramper eel		Scot
Ramplon		Cl

AMMODYTIDAE

Sandeels: *Ammodytes* **spp.**

Hornel	Sandeel of a larger size	Scot
Pintle fish		Scot
Sandy giddock		Scot

ANARHICHIDAE

Catfish: *Anarhichas lupus* **(L.)**

Sea wolf		Scot
Steen biter		Sh

BELONIDAE

Garfish: *Belone belone* **(L.)**

Brod-iasg		Gael
Gaugnet		Loth
Greenbane		Scot
Needle fish		Scot

CALLIONYMIIDAE

Dragonet: *Callionymus lyra* **(L.)**

Balle-eries		Abdn
Bridegroom		Bnf
Chanticleer		Loth
Gowdie	see also Grey gurnard	ne Scot, Ork
Skulpin	This is also the name of *Cottus scorpius*	Scot
Tailor		Cl
Wyver		Bnf

Note: Forbes' Dictionary gives the same dialect names for the Dragonet and the Gurnard.

CARANGIDAE

Horse mackerel: *Trachurus trachurus* **(L.)**

Buck mackerel		MF
Scad		Scot
Stour mackerel		Loth

CHIMAERIDAE

Ratfish: *Chimaera monstrosa* **(L.)**

King of the herring		Scot

CLUPEIDAE

Allis Shad: *Alosa alosa* **(L.)**

Craig herring		Scot
Crue herring		Scot
Rock herring		Bnf

Herring: *Clupea harengus* **(L.)**

Filling	maturing herring	Scot
Full	mature herring	Scot
Halflin	young herring	Scot, MF
Maizy	spawning herring	Scot
Mattie	maiden herring	Scot
Nun		Ags, Fif
Peeo	large winter herring	Ags
Scadan		MF, Gael
Shaldoo	young herring	MF
Wine drinkers		Scot
Yaulin		Scot

Sprat: *Clupea sprattus* **(L.)**

Garvie	this is perhaps the only dialect name for sprat in Scotland, and derives from the Gaelic "garbh" meaning rough, descriptive of keeled scales on the fish's belly	Scot

CONGRIDAE

Conger eel: *Conger conger* **(L.)**

Black eel	e Scot
Easgann-faragaidh	MF, Gael
Evil eel	Abdn
Haaf eel	MF
Haivel	Abdn, Bnf
White eel	Scot
Yaw	ne Scot

COTTIDAE

Sea Scorpion: *Cottus bubalis* **(Europhrasen)**

Camper	ne Scot
Plucker	Sh
Sutor	MF

CYCLOPTERIDAE

Lumpsucker: *Cyclopterus lumpus* **(L.)**

Baggety	Scot
Blue paidle	Scot
Hen paidle	Scot
Hush	Scot
Paddle-cock	e Scot
Runkar	Cai

GADIDAE

Cod: *Gadus morhua* **(L.)**

Usual market categories:	small codling	less than 54 cm
	codling	54–63 cm
	sprag	63–76 cm
	cod	>76 cm

Black codling	medium sized fish	Bnf
Blockie	half sized fish	e Scot
Bodach rudh		Gael
Coddie	small cod	Bnf
Droud		Cl
Duncan	half grown fish	MF
Hum	cod roe	Ags
Keelin	large adult fish	n Scot
Kleg		Scot
Poullach	half grown fish	MF
Purr	small fish	Sh
Red knock		e Scot
Scots Willie	small codling	Sh
Shingler)		Cai, e Scot,
Slinger)	spent fish	Cl, etc
Slink)		
Sousler	fish with big head	Cai
Stock fish	medium sized cod between codling and keelin	Kcdn
Stuckie	a "thick" codling	Sh
Wairey codlin	"Wair" ie Kelp	e Scot

Haddock: *Melanogrammus aeglefinus* **(L.)**

Usual market categories:	small - pingers, chats, gibbers	
	large - jumbos	

Adag or attac		MF, Gael
Calfie	smallest marketable fish	Abdn
Cameral	recently spent fish	Abdn, MF
Haddie		Scot
Haddo-breeks	fish roe	Rox
March caulin	newly spawned fish	Ags
Nockies		Abdn
Norrie	small fish	Bwk
Pipe	small fish	Loth
Powee	small fresh fish	Ags

Ling: *Molva molva* **(L.)**

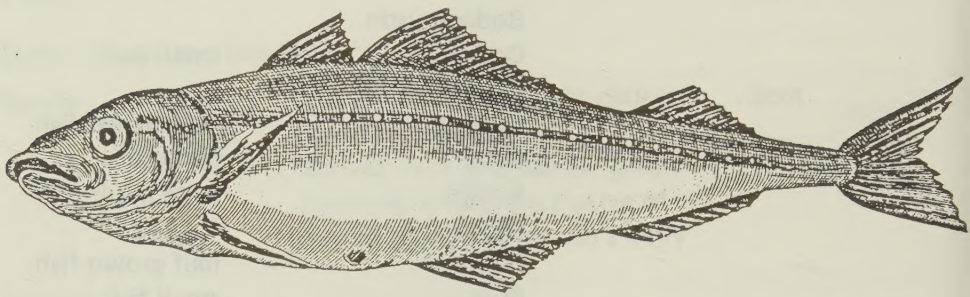
Doggie ling	small fish	MF
Labran		Scot
Lahan		Abdn
Leying		Ags
Mamik		Sh
Ollick	young fish	Sh
Pintle		e Scot
Shoodra		Sh
Stake or Stakie		ne Scot

Pollack: *Pollachius pollachius* **(L.)**

Lythe		Scot
Laid		Scot

Note: see comment attached to entry on saithe.

Saithe (Coalfish): *Pollachius virens* **(L.)**



Baddock		e Scot
Blackjack		e Scot
Coalmie	full grown fish	MF
Comb	fish of the fifth year	Bnf
Cuth, Cooth	young fish	Ork
Cuddie	young fish	Cai
Dargie	small fish	Ags
Geeks	young stages	MF
Peltag, Piltack	fish in second year	Cai, Ork
Pirrie	small fish	e Scot
Poddlie	immature fish	e Scot
Prinkle	small fish	e Scot
Queeth	fish in second year	Bnf, MF
Rock halibut		ne Scot, Ags
Said, Seid		Sh
Saidhean		MF, Gael
Sellag, Sillack	fry of saithe	Cai, Ork, Sh
Stenloch	an overgrown coalfish	CL

Note: In "Key to the Fishes of Northern Europe" Alwyne Wheeler's description of the saithe remarks that, "Few other fish have as many widely-used names: coalfish, coley, billet, black pollack, and glassan or glosshan are samples. In North America this fish is called the pollock".

Whiting: *Merlangius merlangus* **(L.)**

Baivee	a large fish	Scot
Cuiteag		MF, Gael
Darg		Abdn
Fitin		e Scot
Glower	coarse and flat fish	Scot

LAMPRIDAE

Opah: *Lampris luna* **(Gunn)**

Jerusalem haddie	MF, Abdn, Ags Fif

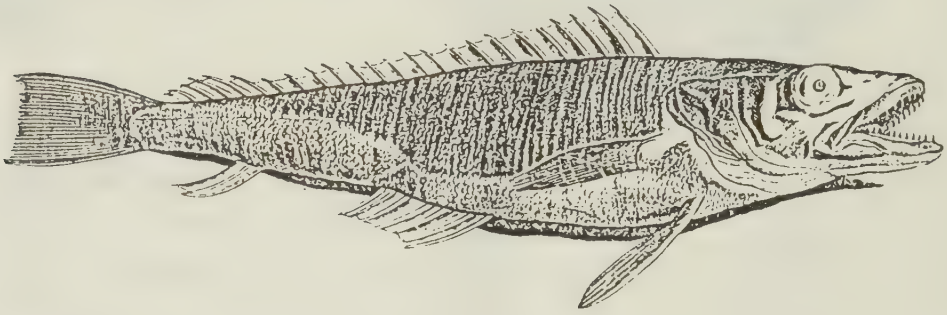
LOPHIIDAE

Monkfish (or angler): *Lophius piscatorius* **(L.)**

Frog fish	Scot
Great plucker	Sh
Kathie	e Scot
Kethock	MF
Maisgoom	Sh
Masgrim	Ork
Mourie Iyan	Ags
Mulrein	Fif
Oof	ne Scot

MERLUCCIIDAE

Hake: *Merluccius merluccius* **(L.)**



Guard fish	Loth
Herring hake	Abdn, Bnf
Sea pike	Scot

OSMERIDAE

Smelt: *Osmerus eparlanus* **(L.)**

Cherry of Tay	Scot
Dowbreck	Abdn

PLEURONECTIDAE

Common dab: *Limanda Limanda* **(L.)**

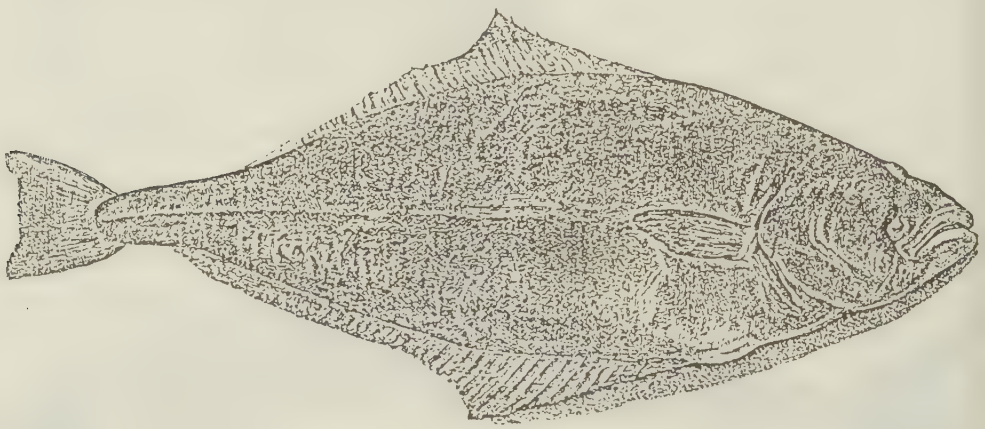
Bastard sattie	also Long Rough Dab, *Hippoglossoides platessoides* (Fabricius)	Abdn
Lang fluek		Fif
Murcock		Cl
Prain fluke		Abdn
Rough back fluke	also Long Rough Dab	ne Scot
Sand dab		Bnf
Sand sucker		Fif
Sautie		Abdn
Yellow dab		Bnf

Flounder: *Platichthys flesus* **(L.)**

Beggar fluke	see plaice	n and e Scot
Black back		Scot
Blin Geordie		MF
Craig fluke		Scot
Crookit mooth		e Scot
Fluke		Scot
Freshick		Scot

Note: Fluke, or fleuk, is also used as a general term for most other flatfish eg "a bag fu' o' flukes". More properly the type of fluke is specified eg "Tobacco fluke, siller fluke etc."

Halibut: *Hippoglossus hippoglossus* **(L.)**



Baldin	young fish, see turbot	Sh
Birdie	small fish	Abdn
Blacksmith	old and dark pigmented fish	Abdn
Bradan-leathan		MF, Gael
'But		Scot
Chicken 'but	small fish	e Scot
Da fish		Sh
Helliflounder		Sh
Laager		Sh

Lemon sole: *Microstomus kitt* **(Walbaum)**

Mary sole	Scot
and Merry sole	Scot
Sand fluke	Loth
Sand sole	Scot
Smear dab	Loth
Sole fleuk	MF
Tobacco fluke	Kcdn, Abdn

Plaice: *Pleuronectes platessa* **(L.)**

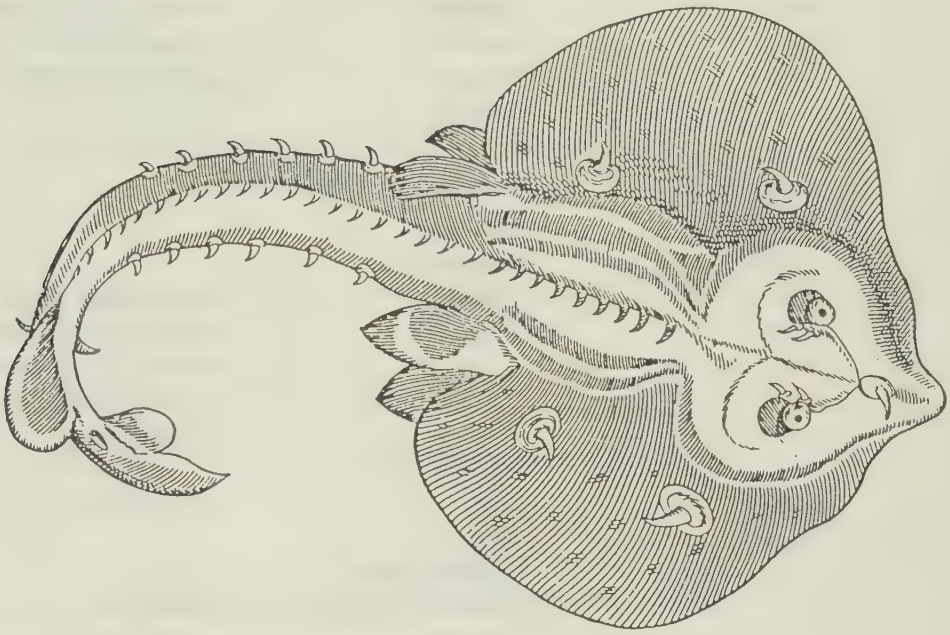
Beggar fluke	see flounder	n and e Scot
Dutch plaise	large fish	Loth
Ivy leaves		Scot
Leubag		Cl, Gael
Plash fluke		Abdn, Kcdn
Plashach		MF
Splash or Splash fluke		e Scot
Splashack		Bnf, MF

Witch: *Glyptocephalus cynoglossus* **(L.)**

Siller fluke	also in same area and ne Scotland for Brill, Megrim	Kcdn
Whitch (sole)		Scot

RAJIDAE

Thornback Ray: *Raja clavata* **(L.)**



Dinnan		Abdn
Doctor		Abdn
Flair		Abdn
Gurney		w MF
Gunnack		MF
Thornie		n Abdn
Wildmeer skate		n Abdn

SALMONIDAE

Salmon: *Salmo salar* **(L.)**

Usual stage names:
Parr: young fish before leaving fresh water
Smolt: fish leaving fresh water for first time
Grilse: fish returning to fresh water from salt after one winter in the sea
Kelt: fish which has spawned

Baggit	unspawned female in the spring	Scot
Beastie		MF
Beikat	male fish	Ags
Ben	small spring salmon	sw Scot
Black fish	a fish close to spawning	Scot
Bradan		Cl, Gael
Brankie	a parr	Fif
Brannock	a parr	Scot
Candaraig	foul salmon	Gael
Candavaig	a variety of salmon	Abdn

Caul' iron		Scot
Cockspur	salmon fry	n Scot
Duke's fish		Arg
Grey salmon	autumn fish	sw Scot
Iasg-druimein		Gael
Kipper	male fish at spawning time	Scot
Lax		ne Scot
Ligger	a newly spawned fish	sw Scot
Queer fish/fella		Cl
Rawner	unspawned female in spring	Scot
Red fish	male at spawning time	Scot
Reister	salted and dried fish	Rox
Ronnal	female fish	Dmf

Trout: *Salmo trutta* **(L.)**

Bannag		Arg
Boddom-lier		Dmf
Camdui	a species of trout	Scot
Finnock	a white trout, in colour and shape like a salmon, usually applied to young sea trout in estuaries	n Scot
Gerran		Arg
Gull	a large fish	Dmf
Herling		sw Scot
Lammas men		Ags, Loth
Lammas whiting	young fish	Ags, Loth
Smout	small trout of a speckled kind	Fif
Spathie	spotted river trout	Ags
Whitling		s Scot
Yellow fin		Scot

SCOMBRIDAE

Mackerel: *Scomber scombrus* **(L.)**

Pinner	small fish	Cl
Rionnach		MF, Gael
Shiner	young fish	n Scot

SCOPHTHALMIDAE

Brill: *Scophthalmus rhombus* **(L.)**

Bastard fluke		Ags
Bastard turbot		MF
Bonnet fluke	see turbot	Loth
Bratt or Britt		sw Scot
Pearl		Scot
Siller fluke	see Witch	e Scot

Megrim: *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis* **(Walbaum)**

Big-mouthed dab		Ags
Glass fluke		Abdn
Sail fluke		Ork
Siller fluke	see also Witch	Kcdn
Whiff		Scot

Turbot: *Scophthalmus maximus* **(L.)**

Baldin	see halibut	Sh
Bannock fluke		e Scot
Bonnet fluke	see brill	Fif
Gunner fluke		e Scot
Mill fish		Sh
Rawn fluke		Abdn
Rodden fluke		Ork
Rowan		Fif
Sea pheasant		Scot

SCYLIORHINIDAE

Lesser Spotted Dogfish: *Scyliorhinus caniculus* **(L.)**

Blin' hey		Kcdn, MF
Blin' Lizzie		Cl
Dawfish		Ork
Hallow		Ork
Morgay		Ork

SHELLFISH

Scallop: *Pecten maximus* **(L.),** *Chlamys opercularis* **(L.)**

Clam		Scot
Queen		Scot

Crab: various: *Cancer pagurus* **(L.) unless otherwise stated**

Boggie	crab starting to harden after casting shell	Abdn
Carl crab	male black clawed crab	Scot
Clappey spur	Eupagurus bernhardus	Cai
Fiery tangs	crab or lobster	Ags
Keavie		Scot
Mettack	soft crab	Abdn
Pallawa		Fif
Partan		Scot
Peeler	a small crab which has just moulted, or is just about to moult	Fif, ne Scot, Ags
Pillan	small crab about to cast	Bnf, Abdn
Poo		Bwk
Pow		e Loth
Pullock	a young edible crab	Scot
Punger	large edible crab	Scot
Roddock)		
Rothie)	young edible crab	e Scot
Ruthag)		
Slusach	cf mettack	ne Scot
Tammy Harper	*Hyas araneus* (L.)	Loth

Fresh water mussel: *Unio margaritifer* **(L.)**

Clochiedow		Cl
Toyt		Ags

Lobster: *Homarus vulgaris* **(L.)**

Fiery tangs	see crab	Ags
Lapster		Abdn
Prainie	small lobster	Scot

Mussel: *Mytilus edulis* **(L.)**

Crockley	Sh
Maddie	w Scot

Norway Lobster: *Nephrops norvegicus* (L.)

Prawns	Scot

Octopus: *Eledone cirrhosa* **(L.)**

Drodlin	ne Scot
Hoasach	ne Scot
Hosefish	Scot
Ofish	Loth
Whaal or Whaal skate	Sh

Note: dialect names probably interchangeable with those of squid, *Loligo forbesi* (Steenstrup)

Squid: *Loligo forbesi* **(Steenstrup)**

Ink fish	Bnf
Skeetack	Sh

Note: See comment at Octopus

Winkle: *Littorina* **species**

Black buckie		ne Scot
Buckie	any spiral shell	Scot
Buckie prins		Scot
Gill stoup		Fif
Horse buckie		n Scot
Roaring buckie		Scot
Siller sawnie		Scot
Water stoup		Loth
Whelk	also *Buccinum undatum* (L.) *Neptunea antiqua* (L.)	Scot

SQUALIDAE

Dogfish: Spur dog: *Squalus acanthias* **(L.)**

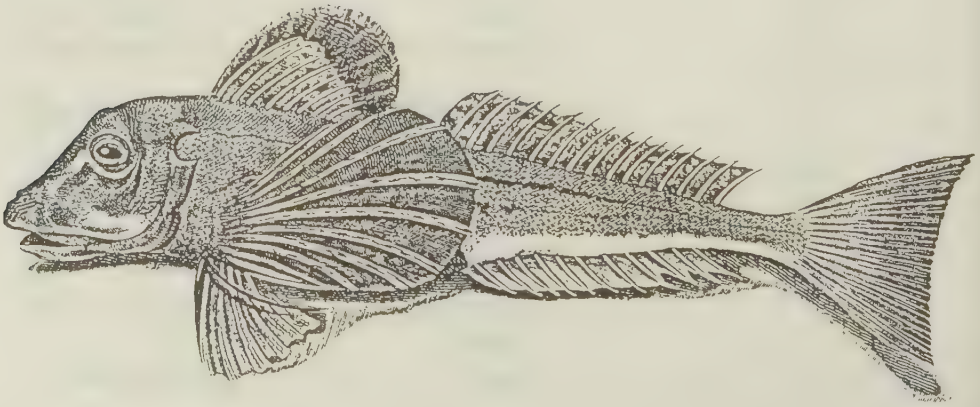
Hoe	dogfish	Sh, Scot

SQUATINIDAE

Angel Fish: *Squatina squatina* **(L.)**

Fiddle fish	e and sw Scot
Mongrel skate	Loth

TRIGLIDAE



Gurnard: Grey Gurnard: *Eutrigla gurnardus* **(L.)**

Captain		Loth
Crointer		Loth
Crooner		Scot
Croonyill		MF
Girnet		MF
Goukmey		Loth
Gowdie	see also Dragonet	E Scot
Hurdy		MF
Krunter		Sh
Noud		Cl
Woof		Loth

Yellow Gurnard: *Trigla Lucerna* **(L.)**

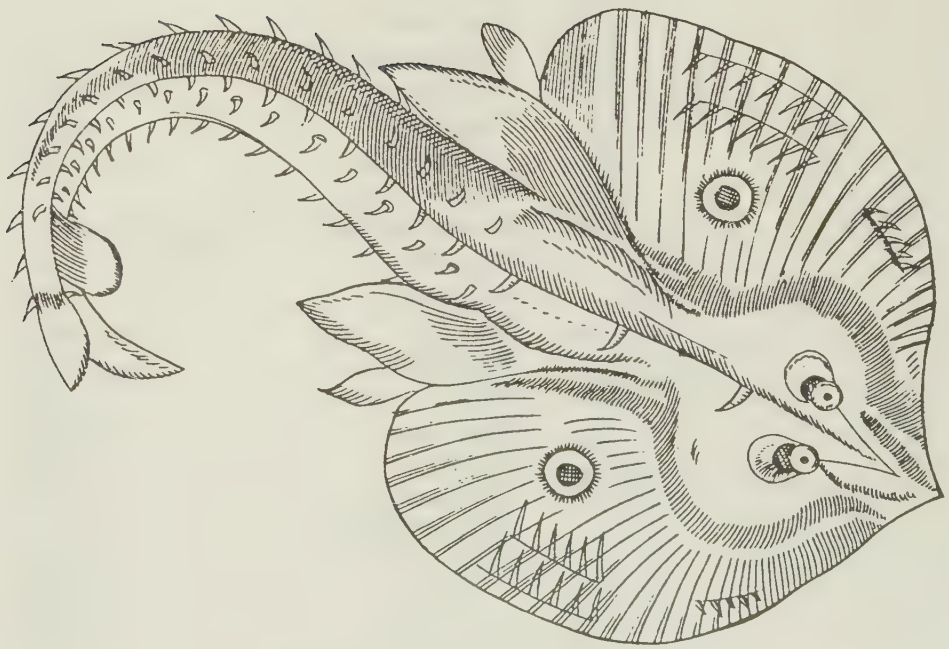
Gawdnie	Scot

Note: See comment at Dragonet.

ZEIDAE

John Dory: *Zeus faber* **(L.)**

Peter fish	Scot



PART 2
Scottish Dialect Names for Fish, Cross Referenced to Their English Equivalents

Adag	Haddock
Angler	Monkfish
Attac	Haddock
Baddock	Saithe
Baggit	Salmon
Baggety	Lumpsucker
Baivee	Whiting
Baldin	Halibut/Turbot
Balle-eries	Dragonet
Bannag	Sea trout
Bannock fluke	Turbot
Bastard fluke	Brill
Bastard sattie	Common Dab/Long Rough Dab
Bastard turbot	Brill
Beastie	Salmon
Beggar fluke	Flounder/Plaice
Beikat	Salmon
Ben	Salmon
Big-mouthed dab	Megrim
Birdie	Halibut
Black back	Flounder
Black buckie	Winkle
Black codling	Cod
Black eel	Conger eel
Black fish	Salmon
Blackjack	Saithe
Blacksmith	Halibut
Blin' Geordie	Flounder
Blin' Hey	Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Blin' Lizzie	Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Blockie	Cod
Blue paidle	Lumpsucker
Bodach rudh	Cod
Boddom-lier	Sea Trout
Boggie	Crab
Bonnet fluke	Brill/Turbot
Bradan	Salmon
Bradan-leathan	Halibut
Brankie	Salmon
Brannock	Salmon
Bratt	Brill
Bridegroom	Dragonet
Britt	Brill
Brod-iasg	Garfish
Buckie	Winkle, Whelk
Buckie prins	Winkle
Buck mackerel	Horse mackerel
'But	Halibut
Calfie	Haddock
Camdui	Trout
Cameral	Haddock
Camper	Sea Scorpion
Candaraig	Salmon
Candavaig	Salmon
Captain	Grey Gurnard
Carl Crab	Crab
Caul' iron	Salmon

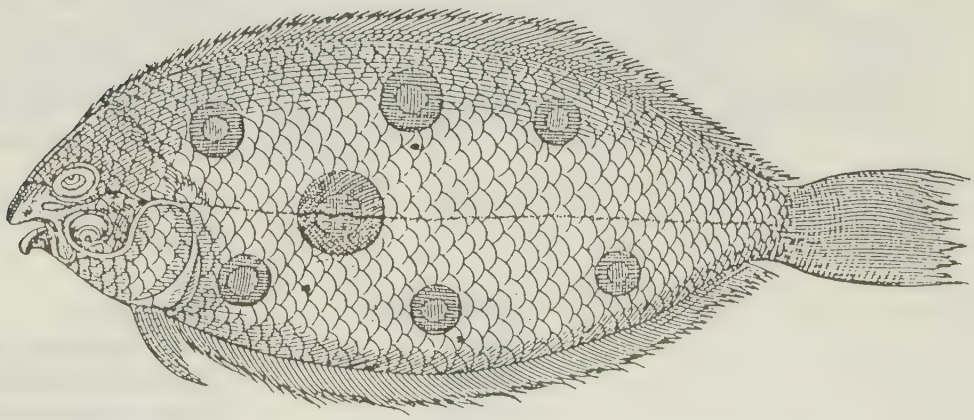
Chanticleer	Dragonet
Cherry of Tay	Smelt
Chicken 'but	Halibut
Clam	Scallop, Queen
Clappey spur	Crab
Clochiedow	Freshwater mussel
Coalfish	Saithe
Coalmie	Saithe
Cockspur	Salmon
Coddie	Cod
Comb	Saithe
Cooth	Saithe
Craig fluke	Flounder
Craig herring	Allis shad
Crockley	Mussel
Crointer	Gurnard
Crookit mooth	Flounder
Crooner	Gurnard
Croonyill	Gurnard
Crue herring	Allis shad
Cuddie	Saithe
Cuiteag	Whiting
Cuth	Saithe
Da fish	Halibut
Darg	Whiting
Dargie	Saithe
Dawfish	Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Dinnan	Thornback Ray
Doctor	Thornback Ray
Doggie ling	Ling
Dowbreck	Smelt
Drodlin	Octopus
Droud	Cod
Duke's fish	Salmon
Duncan	Cod
Dutch plaise	Plaice
Easgann-faragaidh	Conger eel
Evil eel	Conger eel
Fiddle fish	Angel fish
Fiery tangs	Crab/Lobster
Filling	Herring
Finnock	Trout
Fitin	Whiting
Flair	Thornback Ray
Fluke	Flounder
Freshick	Flounder
Frog fish	Monkfish
Full	Herring
Garvie	Sprat
Gaugnet	Garfish
Gawdnie	Yellow Gurnard
Geeks	Saithe
Gerrack	Saithe
Gerran	Sea trout
Gill stoup	Winkle

Girnet	Grey Gurnard
Glass fluke	Megrim
Glower	Whiting
Goukmey	Grey Gurnard
Gowdie	Dragonet/Grey Gurnard
Great plucker	Monkfish
Greenbane	Garfish
Grey salmon	Salmon
Guard fish	Hake
Gull	Sea trout
Gunnack	Thornback Ray
Gunner fluke	Turbot
Gurney	Thornback Ray
Haaf eel	Conger eel
Haddie	Haddock
Haddo-breeks	Haddock roe
Haivel	Conger eel
Halflin	Herring
Hallow	Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Helliflounder	Halibut
Hen paidle	Lumpsucker
Herling	Sea trout
Herring hake	Hake
Hoasach	Octopus
Hoe	Spur dog
Hornel	Sandeel
Horse buckie	Winkle
Hosefish	Octopus
Hum	Cod roe
Hurdy	Grey Gurnard
Hush	Lumpsucker
Iasg-druimein	Salmon
Ink fish	Squid
Ivy leaves	Plaice
Jerusalem haddie	Opah
Kathie	Monkfish
Keavie	Crab
Keelin	Cod
Kethock	Monkfish
King of the herring	Ratfish
Kipper	Salmon
Kleg	Cod
Krunter	Grey Gurnard
Laager	Halibut
Labran	Ling
Lahan	Ling
Laid	Pollack
Lammas men	Trout
Lammas whiting	Trout
Lamper eel	Lamprey
Lang fleuk	Common dab
Lapster	Lobster
Lax	Salmon

Leubag	Plaice
Leying	Ling
Ligger	Salmon
Lythe	Pollack
Maddie	Mussel
Maisgroom	Monkfish
Maizy	Herring
Mamik	Ling
March caulin	Haddock
Mary sole	Lemon sole
Masgrim	Monkfish
Mat-full	Herring
Mattie	Herring
Merry sole	Lemon sole
Mettack	Crab
Mill fish	Turbot
Mongrel skate	Angel fish
Morgay	Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Mourie lyan	Monkfish
Mulrein	Monkfish
Murcock	Common Dab
Needle fish	Garfish
Nin-ee'd eel	Lamprey
Nockies	Haddock
Norrie	Haddock
Noud	Grey Gurnard
Nun	Herring
Ofish	Octopus
Ollick	Ling
Oof	Monkfish
Paddle-cock	Lumpsucker
Pallawa	Crab
Parr	Salmon
Partan	Crab
Pearl	Brill
Peeler	Crab
Peeo	Herring
Peltag	Saithe
Peter fish	John Dory
Pillan	Crab
Piltack	Saithe
Pinner	Mackerel
Pintle	Ling
Pintle fish	Sandeel
Pipe	Haddock
Pirrie	Saithe
Plashach	Plaice
Plash fluke	Plaice
Plucker	Sea scorpion
Poddlie	Saithe
Poo	Crab
Pow	Crab
Powee	Haddock
Poullach	Cod
Prainie	Lobster

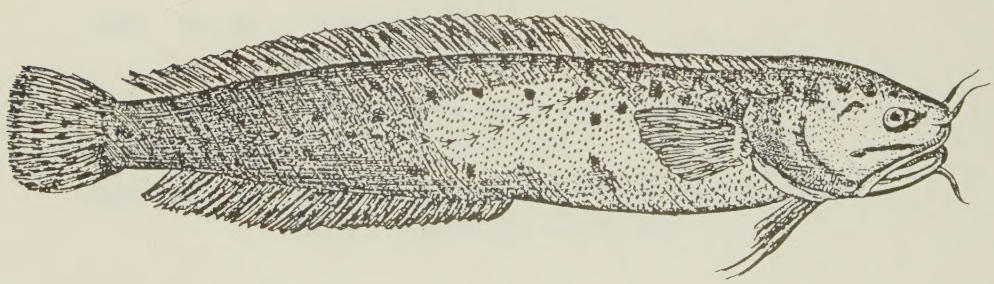
Prawns	Norway lobster
Prinkle	Saithe
Pullock	Crab
Punger	Crab
Purr	Cod
Queer fella	Salmon
Queer fish	Salmon
Queeth	Saithe
Ramper eel	Lamprey
Ramplon	Lamprey
Rawner	Salmon
Rawn fluke	Turbot
Red fish	Salmon
Reister	Salmon
Rionnach	Mackerel
Roaring buckie	Winkle
Rock halibut	Saithe
Rock herring	Allis shad
Rodden fluke	Turbot
Roddock	Crab
Ronnal	Salmon
Rothie	Crab
Rough back fluke	Common dab/Long Rough dab
Rowan	Turbot
Runkar	Lumpsucker
Ruthag	Crab
Said	Saithe
Saidhean	Saithe
Sail fluke	Megrim
Sand dab	Common dab
Sand fluke	Lemon sole
Sand sole	Lemon sole
Sand sucker	Common dab
Sandy giddock	Sandeel
Sautie	Common dab
Scad	Horse mackerel
Scadan	Herring
Scots Willie	Cod
Sea pheasant	Turbot
Sea pike	Hake
Sea wolf	Catfish
Seid	Saithe
Sellag	Saithe
Shaldoo	Herring
Shiner	Mackerel
Shingler	Cod
Shoodra	Ling
Sillack	Saithe
Siller fluke	Brill/Witch/Megrim
Siller sawnie	Winkle
Skeetack	Squid
Skulpin	Dragonet/Sea scorpion
Slinger	Cod
Slink	Cod
Sluchach	Crab

Smear dab	Lemon sole
Smout	Trout
Sole fleuk	Lemon sole
Sousler	Cod
Spathie	Trout
Splashack	Plaice
Splash fluke	Plaice
Sprag	Cod
Stake	Ling
Stakie	Ling
Steen biter	Catfish
Stenloch	Saithe
Stock fish	Cod
Stour mackerel	Horse mackerel
Stuckie	Cod
Sutor	Sea scorpion
Tailor	Dragonet
Tammy Harper	Crab
Thornie	Thornback ray
Tobacco fluke	Lemon sole
Toyt	Fresh-water mussel
Water stoup	Winkle
Whaal	Octopus
Whaal skate	Octopus
Whelk	Winkle
Whiff	Megrim
White eel	Conger eel
Whitling	Trout
Wildmeer skate	Thornback ray
Wine drinkers	Herring
Woof	Grey Gurnard
Wyver	Dragonet
Yaulin	Herring
Yaw	Conger eel
Yellow dab	Common dab
Yellow fin	Trout



Arbroath smokies	Smoked haddock. Originally three separate cures, Auchmithie cure, close fish and pinwiddies	ne Scot
Badderlock	Edible seaweed	Ags
Bervie	Cured smoked haddock	Kcdn
Blawn cod	Cod, split and half dried	Ags
Bush rope	The rope to which a "fleet" of drift nets is attached	Scot
Crail capon	Haddock, dried but not split	Fif
Cran	A measure of herring, 37½ gallons or 3½ cwts in Scotland	Scot
Cruive	A fish trap in the form of an enclosure or row of stakes across a river or an estuary	Scot
Dunbar wedder	Salted herring	Loth
Farlan	A long box into which herring are put for gutting	e Scot
Farran	An old term for starboard	ne Scot
Finnans	A haddock cure originating from the village of Findon	e Scot
Fish hake	(1) A weight anchoring a fish line or net	ne Scot
	(2) A triangular framework of wood for drying fish before cooking	ne Scot
Fleet	The number of drift nets shot by one boat	Scot
Gaffnet	A large fishing net used in rivers	Scot
Ginnle	The gills of a fish	CI
Gippie	A small knife used for gutting fish	Scot
Glasgow Magistrate	Red herring	CI
Gourock ham	Salt herring	CI
Guddle	To catch trout by groping with hands under the stones or banks of a stream	ne Scot
Haaf	Deep sea fishing ground	Shet
Haafing	Deep sea fishing	Shet
Half net	A share in the fishing of one net	ne Scot
Herring drave	The annual herring fishery	Scot
Herring tack	A shoal of herring	Scot
Hum	The milt of a cod	Shet
Kabbelow	Salted codfish hung for a few days (cf German Kabeljau)	e Scot
Lucken	Haddock, gutted but not split down to the tail	ne Scot
Male/maise	500 herring	Scot
Maizy	Herring caught in the act of spawning	Scot
Matfull	A sexually mature herring	e Scot
Mattie	A young maiden herring with the roe not full developed	e Scot
Monday's haddie	A fish that has lost its freshness	MF

Nek herring	Best individuals placed on top of the barrel of herring	Scot
Piper	An unsplit, half-dried haddock	ne Scot
Redd	(1) Salmon spawning site	sw Scot
	(2) Sort out and clean drift nets or lines, then lay them on ready for shooting	e Scot
Reister	Salted and dried salmon	sw Scot
Rock salmon	Skinned spur dogs	e Scot
Rock turbot	Catfish with the head cut off and skinned	e Scot
Roker	Trade name for skates and rays	Scot
Scull	A fisherman's shallow wicker basket	n Scot
Shoal	Shallows	e Scot
Shoot	To cast nets or lines	Scot
Sill	Milt	Scot
Spelding	A split and dried, or smoked, haddock or whiting	e Scot
Stell	A deep pool in a river where net fishing for salmon can be carried on. Also a type of salmon net	Scot
Swing net	The herring drift net last shot and nearest the boat	ne Scot
Trail net	The herring drift net first shot and furthest away from the boat	ne Scot
Trink	A narrow channel between rocks on a sea coast	Scot
Wind fish	Air dried cod	Kcdn
Winter fish	Ling, salted for winter	e Scot
Yair net	A net extending into the bed of a river, inclining upwards and fixed by poles	sw Scot



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Key to Abbreviations

Abdn	Aberdeenshire	Loth	Lothian
Ags	Angus	MF	Moray Firth
Bnf	Banffshire	n	Northern
Bwk	Berwickshire	ne	North East
Cai	Caithness	Ork	Orkney
Cl	Firth of Clyde	Rox	Roxburghshire
Dmf	Dumfries-shire	s	Southern
e	Eastern	Scot	Scotland
Fif	Fife	Sh	Shetland
Gael	Gaelic	w	Western
Kcdn	Kincardineshire		

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